

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL  
GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE  
OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 38, "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service", introduced by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, of the District of Columbia. I would also like to thank Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for her leadership on this.

Everyday, men and women from all over the nation put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy. They have taken an oath to serve and protect us from dangers both seen and unseen, and do so with distinction and great diligence. This very brave group of people put aside all fears and inhibitions, risking their health, well-being, and comfort of their families to serve in a capacity that few desire. I believe it to be a worthy honor to have the Capitol grounds used for the memorial services.

Many believe that police officers have the most stress filled jobs. There's no question that police officers experience stressful situations with more frequency than most people. While municipalities hire and pay individual policemen, they seldom consider that the entire family endures the pains of the job, many of which have a deleterious affect on the family. The job and family simultaneously creates an environment that can be managed by few. Given the many sacrifices officers make during their lives for our rights and privileges, the burdens on the family should be few and minimized. Using the Capitol grounds for memorial services offers appreciation to not only the officer, but to the entire family, which they so graciously deserve.

Washington, DC, our nation's capital, is filled with memorials and museums that help us to remember the countless sacrifices that men and women have made for the freedoms of our great nation. We are a nation who knows the importance of erecting these symbols to help us remember those who fought and died for the greater good.

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.

The Veteran's Memorial, which is a gleaming black granite wall etched with the names of the 60,000 soldiers who died in Vietnam or remain missing in action. While it does nothing to diminish the tears of families who visit year after year; however, it permanently helps them recognize that their dying was not in vain and that the government of the United States remembers their sacrifice.

There are veterans and other exceptional individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery from the Revolutionary War to the present military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since May of 1864, Arlington has been a fully operational National Cemetery. Today, the ceme-

tary performs services for military casualties from the Iraqi and Afghanistan war fronts, as well as the aging World War II veterans.

This country has a long history of recognizing soldiers who have fallen fighting foreign threats. This country must also recognize those who fall fighting domestic threats. Therefore, I stand in support of H. Con. Res. 38, "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service."

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY ECKERT  
FOR 9/11 VICTIMS WORK

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 201, which recognizes the life of Beverly Eckert, a co-founder of "Voices of September 11th" and the widow of Sean Rooney, who was killed in the Twin Towers on September 11th.

Ms. Eckert worked tirelessly for "Voices of September 11th," an advocacy and support group of widows, mothers, and children of the victims of 9/11, which served as a driving force for intelligence and homeland security in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. After the attacks, Beverly Eckert focused all of her emotions into organized advocacy for government accountability and future transparency to make our Nation more secure. Ms. Eckert was faced with opposition and indifference, but she continued to press forward in her fact-finding and preventative efforts.

Her strong, constant voice led to the creation of the National Commission on Terrorists Attack Upon the United States—or the 9/11 Commission. After the Commission's formation, Eckert continued her mission by participating in hearings and demanding implementation of the Commission's recommendations. During testimony as a member of the 9/11 Commission's Family Steering Committee, Eckert praised the Commission for their efforts to completely inform the public as to the failures on September 11th through public hearings and reports. She also warned Congressional members and the White House in regards to the Commission's recommendations that, unlike other commission recommendations, implementation of 9/11 Commission recommendations would be necessary because "there is no shelf on which they can be hidden." To that end she successfully pushed for the passage of the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007."

In conclusion, Beverly Eckert was a tenacious citizen who nudged and prodded the leaders of this Nation to look at their mistakes and implement the steps to correct them. Ms. Eckert was not interested in partisanship, fear-mongering, or saber-rattling. She was a woman who made sure that the death of her husband and those who died on September 11th would not be in vain. In that process, she reinforced the message that you can make a difference and that we, as a nation, should not give into the fear of terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution and formally recognize Ms. Beverly Eckert

for her continued work to ensure that the victims and families of the September 11th attacks are never forgotten and to ensure that our country is protected from such attacks in the future.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING NA-  
TIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST  
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 210, Recognizing the importance of the National School Lunch Program and commend my colleague, Rep. GWEN MOORE for bringing this measure before the House.

This important program provides breakfast to over 8 million children through either free or reduced-price meals in approximately 16,000 schools. With the current economic crisis, working families are facing challenges they never expected. Last week, the Department of Labor announced the U.S. economy lost 651,000 jobs in February, and the unemployment rate hit 8.1 percent, its highest point in since 1983. These job losses make it even harder for some families to feed their children—so they turn to schools for help. We know that children who live in families that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services.

We've learned over the years that making breakfast widely available through different venues, such as in the classroom, or as students exit their school bus, or outside the classroom, has been shown to diminish the stigma of receiving free or reduced-price breakfast, which often prevents eligible students from getting a traditional breakfast in school cafeterias.

Providing breakfast in the classroom can improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing tardiness and disciplinary referrals. Students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and work faster in math exercises than those who eat a partial breakfast. Students who skip breakfast are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall. Studies have shown that access to nutritious programs such as the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program helps to create a strong learning environment for children and helps to improve children's concentration in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, this is an incredibly important program with a well-documented track record of success. I'm pleased to add my voice of support for the National School Breakfast Program and I will be working with my colleagues to make sure that we provide the resources necessary to provide the benefits of this program to every hungry child who needs breakfast at school.